

City of Billings

Class II Landfill Expansion Project



Update & Fact Sheet

December 2018

On Dec. 17, 2018, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approved an application for a Class II solid waste management system license for the Billings Regional Landfill Expansion. The license approval follows a comprehensive environmental review process that began when the city submitted its application in April 2015.

The project expands the existing landfill facility boundary by 350 acres on city-owned property south of the currently licensed landfill. Total disturbance will be 293 acres for landfill disposal units, roads, buildings and storm water and leachate retention ponds during the life cycle of the facility. The maximum open area at any time will be 119 acres. The expansion includes four landfill units to be developed in seven phases over the lifecycle of the expanded area, which is estimated to be 48 years.

DEQ's permitting process included extensive environmental review and an extended public comment period. A total of 585 comments were received, all of which were compiled and responded to in the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) released December 17, 2018, in conjunction with the license.

The EA includes an in-depth analysis of potential impacts to groundwater, which found that the site has excellent natural barriers to prevent potential groundwater contamination. Testing included 57 test pits and 31 test borings, one of which reached a depth of 300 feet and still encountered no groundwater. Groundwater was found in only one localized area at the site. However, the City of Billings will install liners and leachate collection systems for all municipal waste cells.

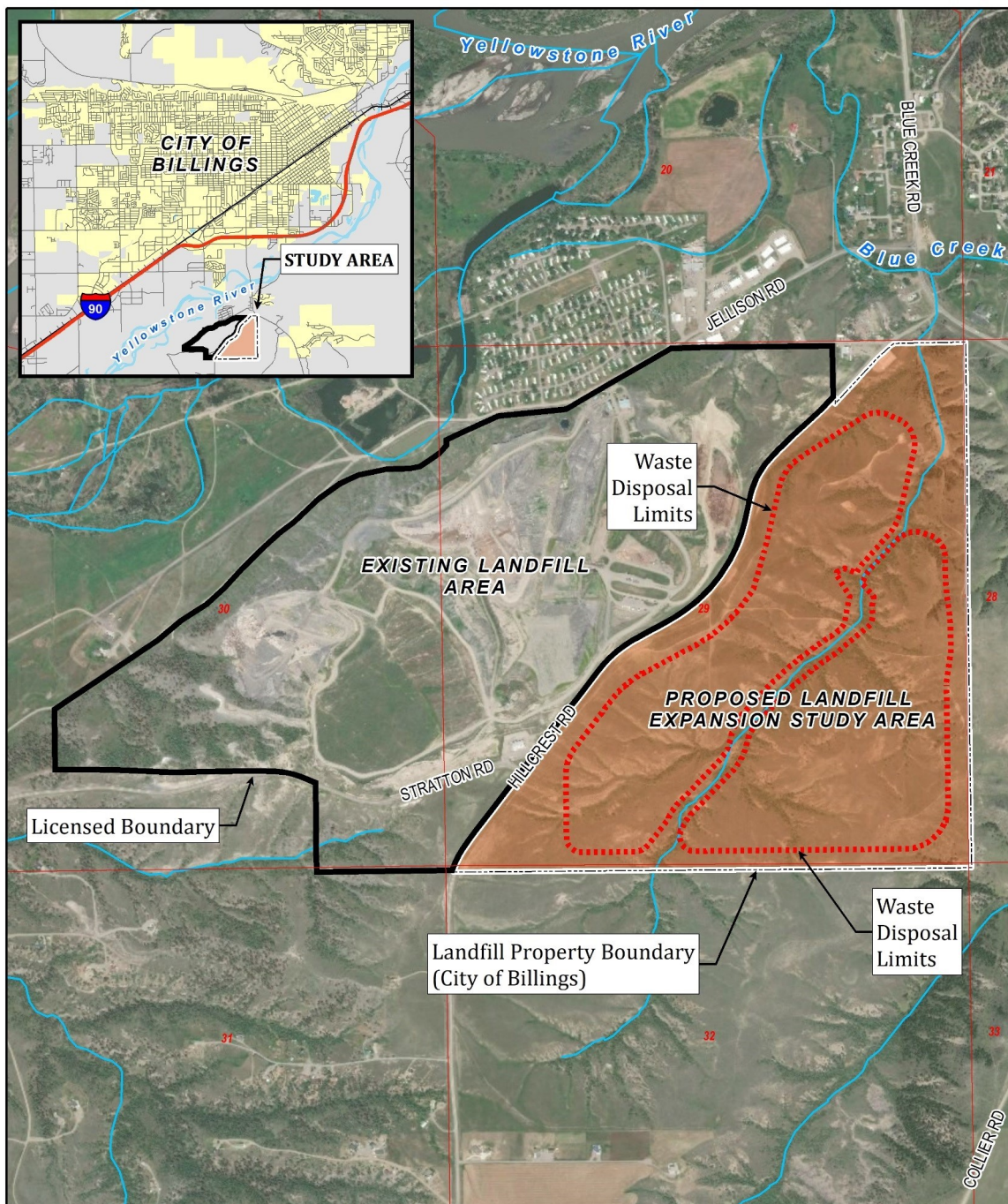
The licensing notification letter and final EA are available at: deq.mt.gov/public/ea/WasteMgt. The final EA and response to comments further addresses the following issues:

- Analysis of alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, and the Proposed Action
- Property values
- Traffic modifications

The Yellowstone County health officer has 15 days to sign the license, after which date the license becomes effective. The City may then proceed with composting activities, as outlined in the final EA, and other preliminary operations as needed. If the county health officer does not approve the license, the City may appeal to the Montana Board of Environmental Review within 30 days of receipt of written notice from the county. The City of Billings will be required to operate and maintain the facility in accordance with DEQ-approved plans and specifications.

Project Background & Timeline

- The current location of the Billings Regional Landfill has been used for waste disposal by the City of Billings since the 1950s.
- The existing DEQ solid waste license was issued to the City of Billings in 1978, and included 421 acres.
- In April 2015, the City of Billings submitted an application to expand the existing landfill facility boundary by 350 acres on city-owned property south of the currently licensed landfill.
- After several deficiency reviews, DEQ determined the application was complete and compliant, and a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was published in December 2016, beginning a 45-day public period that was subsequently extended until March 16, 2017.
- On December 17, 2018, DEQ issued the final EA and approved the City's application for a Class II solid waste management system license for the Billings Regional Landfill expansion.



DATE: December 11, 20183
 SOURCES: ESRI, Yellowstone Co. GIS,
 HDR Inc., National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)
 PROJECTION:
 NAD_1983_StatePlane_Montana_FIPS_2500_Feet
 AUTHOR: HDR Engineering, Inc.

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000
 Feet



LEGEND

- Waste Disposal Limits
- Landfill Expansion Study Area
- Current Licensed Boundary
- Section
- Stream (USGS NHD)

CITY OF BILLINGS LANDFILL EXPANSION

VICINITY MAP

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